

STORY OF BATTLE TOLD DAY BY DAY.

Cronje's Laager a Shambles, but He Refuses to Surrender—Details of His Fight.

A consecutive story of the battle between Gen. Cronje's army of 1,000 and Lord Roberts's army of 20,000 is herewith given day by day since Sunday, when the Boers were surrounded at Paardeberg Drift.

No greater story of heroism has ever been written. The Boers show themselves worthy of their Holland forefathers. On Sunday they lost 800 men and the British losses reached the same figure. Surrounded, hopelessly outnumbered and bombarded by fifty howitzers and field guns, Cronje refuses to surrender and says he will fight to the death. Here is the story:

SUNDAY'S BATTLE.

PAARDEBERG DRIFT, Orange Free State, Feb. 20.—The action of Sunday was one of the most fearfully contested of the war. The Boers were grimly fighting for their lives, while the British determinedly harassed them.

As night fell after the terrible fighting, which lasted all day, there was a sudden cessation of fire, as both sides were thoroughly tired and glad to rest.

The work of collecting the dead and wounded proceeded and the men slept where they had fought in the earlier hours.

The mounted infantry did good work in the fighting and the Highland Brigade fought steadily and sternly.

Gen. Cronje's forces occupied the river bed. The British troops marched splendidly to overtake the retreating Boer forces after Cronje had made his escape from Magerfontein.

The Sixth Division and mounted infantry reinforced the Ninth Division Saturday and marched from Klip's Drift to Paardeberg, where they camped.

Sunday morning the march was resumed in the direction of Koodoosrand.

The British had only gone five miles when they discovered the Boers. Cronje's men lined both banks of the river at a point where it makes a sharp bend. The Boer laager was at the easterly end of the bend opposite a drift. The kopjes on the south side overlooking the drift were occupied in force.

The Highland Brigade, consisting of the Seaforth's, the Black Watch and the Argylls, advanced from the south bank, and the Essex, Welsh and Yorkshires formed a long line on the left, which rested on the river, the extreme right being the Welsh. The whole line was ordered to envelop the Boers.

The entire British forces attacked, while the artillery poured in a hail of shells.

The Boers held a splendid position and covered the left of the Highland Brigade, which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open. The other regiments and the rest of the brigade swung around the front of the Highland Brigade on the level, coverless ground. They were exposed to a terrible fire, which compelled the men to lie upon the ground. They had to remain so the rest of the day.

Through the dreadful heat and a terrible thunderstorm the British clung to the position, answering the Boer fire and shooting steadily.

A large body of men, including the Canadians under Gen. Smith-Dorrien, crossed the river at Paardeberg Drift and made a gallant attempt to charge into the Boer laager. The charge failed, the force being driven back.

MONDAY.

PAARDEBERG DRIFT, Tuesday, Feb. 20.—Monday morning broke finding the Boers in the same place, they having during the night constructed intrenchments around the laager, which was still threatened by Gen. Smith-Dorrien. The infantry rested after the terrible hard day's fighting on Sunday.

The mounted infantry and a battery of horse artillery started to observe the enemy, who was holding a kopje, but while riding around the southern side of the kopje they received a heavy fusillade and were obliged to move further out. They sustained no casualty, a strong proof of Boer marksmanship.

Pushing on, the detachment found that the kopje extended a considerable distance west, sloping gradually to the plain.

They seized a good defensive position, which wasarrisoned. They continued the movement and completely turned the Boers, whose left was held strongly by a farm-house, which was vigorously shelled.

The detachment returned to camp at nightfall, leaving a garrison on the ridge. Meanwhile a desultory bombardment of the Boer position was kept up, and a good deal of rifle fire concentrated where the Essex were attempting to rush up the river.

About midday the cry that Gen. French had arrived was passed down the ranks, but his division operated out of sight of our force.

When Lord Roberts arrived he addressed several regiments and was vigorously cheered.

Early in the day Gen. Cronje asked for a twenty-four hours' armistice in order to bury his dead. Lord Kitchener refused, and a little later came another messenger with word to the effect that if the British were inhuman enough to refuse an armistice for the purpose of burying the dead, Gen. Cronje saw no other course but to surrender.

Upon receipt of this message Lord Kitchener proceeded to the Boer laager in order to arrange the capitulation, but he was met by a messenger who announced that Gen. Cronje said that the whole thing was a mistake; that Gen. Cronje had not the slightest intention of surrendering, but would fight until he died.

Gen. Kitchener returned and ordered a bombardment of the Boer position. Three field batteries and a howitzer battery took position directly in front of the laager and began a terribly accurate fire, the howitzers using lyddite shells freely.

The Boers were seen retiring from the trenches to the river bed in order to seek cover, but no cover could protect them from such accurate and deadly fire. The howitzers, especially, dropped lyddite shells with marvellous precision into the very bed of the river, and the trenches were soon filled with terrible fumes and green smoke, but again the enemy held grimly on.

Again during the night deserters arrived. They were terribly frightened and shaken by their awful experience. They reported that they had water in abundance, but were only able to draw scanty supplies from their laager during the night.

TUESDAY.

PAARDEBERG DRIFT, Tuesday, Feb. 20.—To-day was the third day of Gen. Cronje's imprisonment and grim resistance. Early this morning the infantry engaged the enemy in the bed of the river, driving him back a short distance.

The morning sun disclosed the Boer tolding like ants on intrenchments around the laager. A few shells were fired to prevent them from continuing the work, but most of the day was quiet.

Gen. French's artillery was heard off to the east, presumably engaging the Boer's reinforcements.

Every opportunity was given the Boers to surrender, but when toward afternoon there was no sign of any such intention, Lord Roberts determined to crush once and for all Gen. Cronje's resistance.

On the south bank of the river, at a range of about 2,000 yards, three field batteries and two naval 12-pounders were positioned. On the north bank, and enfilading the whole river, one howitzer, three field batteries and three naval 4.7 guns were placed.

Then followed the most wonderful scene it was ever my lot to witness. Once before, in Thersley, I had seen 110 guns in action, but never such a number of powerful guns concentrated, riddling their fire upon a spot about a mile square.

The exploding lyddite shells raised clouds of green smoke, completely filling the bed of the river.

The shrapnel burst on the edge of each bank except for a short space where the proximity of British infantry made it dangerous.

Our shells searched every bush and every ravine of the river bed. The enfilading guns must have done terrible execution. The roar was deafening, yet with a spirit of desperate madness now and again the Boer would attempt to snipe the naval guns, which were firing at a range of 1,000 yards.

The long line of three batteries belched forth death, while on each side lay two battalions of infantry whose Maxims sounded petty beside the roaring big guns.

What loss the Boers suffered is not known yet.

I am writing in the middle of a sleeping camp. Not a sound disturbs the heavy slumber of the tired soldiers. Down the river bed not a fire is seen, not a cry heard.

There is something tragic in the sterna resistance which Gen. Cronje is hopelessly offering. It is impossible not to admire his pluck, but all condemn the wickedness of uselessly sacrificing the lives of his brave followers.

WEDNESDAY.

PAARDEBERG, Feb. 21.—Commandant Botha's attempt to relieve Gen. Cronje failed. The British capture his kopje and scatter his forces, taking fifty prisoners, and they had come from Ladysmith in two days.

Gen. Cronje still holds out and is fiercely shelled from all sides. Many of his wagons are on fire.

THURSDAY.

Gen. Cronje's position is unchanged. He has not yet surrendered.

NUNS' MASS AT MAFEKING BEFORE A BIG BATTLE.

Veils of the Sisters Covered the Shell Holes in the Convent—How Christmas Was Celebrated by the Besieged with Rifles at Hand to Hand Fight.



How the Boers celebrate victory or humble themselves in defeat by religious service in their laagers. Prayers and preaching are a daily event in the camps and are very impressive.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 21.—The first detailed description of the desperate battle made from Mafeking Dec. 3 comes from the Reuters' correspondent in that hard-pressed little town, who prefaces his account with the words of Christmas Day.

The Christmas of 1899 in Mafeking has been indeed an eventful one. Sunday we observed as a truce, and it was not only a truce, but a real day of pleasure at Rileas. A Christmas dinner which might have been with many in the old country was served, and we drank in champagne the toast of "Peace on Earth to men of good will in beleaguered Mafeking."

For the afternoon of Sunday a Christmas tree had been procured for the children by Lady Sarah Wilson and a committee, and the poor little things brought up for the day from the dark trenches and bomb-proofs of the laager were allowed to enjoy themselves with a careless disregard of the danger which they did not understand. Christmas eve was celebrated in the English Church by a choral evensong with Christmas carols. Candles gleamed upon the altar, which was decorated with flowers and evergreens.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

The congregation, despite the great hole in the sanctuary behind the dossal and other damage done by the enemy's shells, caught something of the spirit of Christmas as they joined in the old hymns and sang the carols which the English associate with snow, holly and mistletoe.

The Roman Catholics had arranged to follow the old custom of celebrating mass at midnight. It was close on that hour when I went my way toward the convent. The whole town was enveloped in Stygian darkness, and I could only find my way by the aid of flashes of sheet lightning reflected from an oncoming storm.

The convent has suffered from the shell fire of the enemy. As I passed through the ruined portico and shattered pillars I entered the great empty building pierced in half a dozen places by the shells of the enemy. Through these holes the wind whistled mournfully.

At the far end of the room six great tapers gleamed through the darkness.

NUNS' VEILS AS BLINDS.

The windows had been covered with the veils of nuns lest the enemy, seeing the light, should be tempted to fire. Around the altar the black-robed figures of the kneeling sisters contrasted strangely with the white saintly vestments of the priest. Behind the nuns was a motley group, mostly men. Many of us were puffed and spurred, and if one had looked into the passage outside the chapel he might have found the rifles and bandoliers of the worshippers ready for use at any moment.

The mass commenced with the Adeste Fideles, and the grand old Christmas hymn echoed through the ruined convent. At the chapel door a group of Cape policemen were gathered, wondering and not quite understanding what it all meant. Vivid flashes of lightning illuminated the room, piercing the veiling of the windows; halloes rattled on the roof, and gusts of wind, rushing through the passages, made the tapers flicker till total darkness was threatened. A few who had the opportunity made confession and were communicated. Then the priest gave us his blessing and we went out into the early morning of Christmas Day.

ATTACK ON BOERS.

The day after Christmas we made an attack upon the Boer line. Our seven-pounders under Major Pannier had been employed during the night on our left front. As dawn broke a flash and a cloud of white smoke showed they were in action. Shot after shot fell rapidly round the enemy's position, as if great lightning bolts were striking at the enemy.

Of the eighty men who formed the storming party twenty-one were killed and four have since died of their wounds. Twenty-eight lie to-day in hospital—thirty-three out of eighty.

BURIED THE DEAD.

In the morning we gathered in the cemetery to bury the dead. A long trench was dug for the non-commissioned officers and men, and there, because neither time nor material permitted, they were buried without coffins, wrapped in white cloth. At the edge of the trench stood the escort. It would have been unwise to fire volleys, as we might have drawn the return fire of the enemy. At the far end the English rector, Mr. Weeks, read the service over the dead.

WAS A YANKEE MARINE.

Body of T. M. Atkinson Found in Tancerville Canal, Near Havre.

HAVRE, Feb. 21.—The body of Thomas M. Atkinson, a badly decomposed state, has been found in the Tancerville Canal here.

The remains have been identified as those of a marine of the U. S. R. Pacific, who had been missing since Dec. 9 last.

Few British Came Back After the Defeat at Game Tree Fort—Went Out Gayly to Fight and Were Repulsed with Terrible Losses.

MAGERSFONTEIN SLAUGHTER PEN.

Boers Were Ready to Bolt, One Says, When British Troops Were Called Back.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)
LONDON, Feb. 21.—In an interview with the Associated Press correspondent at Maseru, Basutoland, a commandant of the Free State gives the following account of the battle of Magerfontein, being the first Boer account of it published:

"The Boers numbered about 14,000 men, consisting of fifteen laagers with thirteen cannons, and were all under cover in the bush and sconces or trenches, when fire was opened by the British at a range of about seven miles with the big guns.

"They came gradually nearer, doing tremendous damage to the Boer intrenchments and sconces. All I could see after the bursting of these shells was rocks and earth flying up in the air and rolling down on the men and horses with deadly effect.

"I trembled all over from the force of the cannon, and the lyddite shells played fearful havoc among the Boers. The vapor and fumes arising from these shells made the Boers quite drowsy, while several succumbed. Altogether the battle was a perfect hell upon earth and fairly put the fear of God in me.

"I had always been told that the British could not shoot, but what I saw at the battle thoroughly convinced me that they were experts at the game. My eyes were opened, and still more so when I saw the Dutch falling in all directions. When the Boers had the big guns 'laid,' up went the English spy-glasses, and a few seconds later a shell crashed on the Boer cannon, rendering it useless. Of the thirteen Boer guns which were in action several were so damaged as to be unworkable.

"My field cornet told me that a tremendous number were killed, and there were so many wounded that the hospitals at Jacobsdal, Boshof and Bloemfontein were quite full. I estimate the number of horses killed and rendered unserviceable at 2,000.

"I firmly believe that the idea in the Boer camp after the battle was over was that if the British had kept on for another hour it would have been a great victory for them, as the Boers were on the point of clearing when the British retired.

"The big guns of the British and their accuracy in firing, coupled with the heavy rain, seem to have had a chilling effect on the Boers, and the fact of having so many dead comrades lying around them depressed them so much that it is said they communicated with their President with the request to come to terms of peace with the British.

"To this the President is reported to have replied: 'All you burghers are to do is to fight. You must fight to the end and to your best, as we are fighting for a good cause.'

"Some of the bodies were fearfully mutilated and showed the effect of the British artillery. I was only one of many who were so impressed and alarmed by what we saw and seen in fighting with the British that we determined to seek shelter and protection in Basutoland."

BULLER STILL ADVANCES; SMALL PARTY REPULSED.

COLENSO, Natal, Wednesday, Feb. 21 (via Chieveley, Feb. 22).—The British have crossed the Tugela over a pontoon northward of Hlangwana, and now occupy Fort Wyke.

While the Naval Brigade was bombarding Gribbelskloof, the Boers' big Crescent replying, yesterday evening after the occupation of Colenso, a small party of Theresen's Horse crossed the river, but were driven back by fire from the trenches.

The Boer guns are still shelling the relieving force from the hills south of Ladysmith, but the impression is spreading that they are merely covering the retreat of the entire Boer force.

Gen. Buller's casualties Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Wednesday, Feb. 21, were: Killed, Capt. Cresswell and Lieut. Kott-Jacobsen and Parry, of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, and nine men; wounded, six officers and ninety-seven men; missing, five men.

BRITISH LOSSES TO FEBRUARY 17, 11,964.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The War Office has given out the following report of the British losses in South Africa up to Feb. 17, but not including the Fusiliers lost at Nicholson's Nek.

Killed—Officers, 165; men, 1,512.
Wounded—Officers, 307; men, 5,084.
Missing—Officers, 171; men, 2,446.
Died from disease—Officers, 13; men, 563.
Accidentally killed—Officers, 1; men, 12.
Invalided home—Officers, 54; men, 1,028.
Total, 11,964.

CHRONOLOGY OF CRONJE'S DEFENSE.

SUNDAY.—Cronje's forces reach Paardeberg Drift after marching 23 miles without rest. Surrounded by the British after a fierce battle. Boer losses, 800 men; British losses, 800.

MONDAY.—British shell Cronje's laager. Boers ask an armistice to bury their dead. Refused. Offer to surrender then withdrawn. Terrible bombardment with lyddite shells works havoc in laager.

TUESDAY.—Third day of Cronje's defense. Forty-seven howitzers and guns concentrate on his position. His case is hopeless, his losses terrible, but his men snipe the British gunners at 1,000 yards. Green fumes from the lyddite shells hover over the Boer laager, which is now a shambles.

WEDNESDAY.—Cronje still being shelled. Botha's reinforcements are scattered by Roberts. Boer chief says no surrender.

THURSDAY.—Cronje still defiant. His wagons are burning and some shambled men desert, but he still holds the fort.

FRIDAY.—Cronje fights on. British guns pour in their hail of death.

ROBERTS'S LOSS 700.

He Had 140 Killed on Tuesday—Long List of Casualties Coming.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—An official report gives 140 men killed at Paardeberg Drift Tuesday, including six Highlanders and eighteen Canadians.

The total British losses in Sunday's fight were 700 killed and wounded.

NEW CAPE CABLE OPEN.

Telegraph Route to South Africa Via Madeira and St. Vincent Completed.

A notice was sent out by the various cable companies to-day that the cable laid from Cape Town to St. Helena and extended to Ascension Island, is now laid between St. Vincent and the Island of Ascension and is now open to traffic.

This completes the telegraph route to South Africa by way of Madeira and St. Vincent, and to St. Helena, at 10 cents per word from London.

KRUGER IS ALARMED.

Six Thousand Boers Sent to Aid Cronje—Free State Capital Being Moved.

LORENZO MARQUEZ, Delagoa Bay, Thursday, Feb. 23.—The Transvaal Government is reported to be seriously alarmed at the defeat of the Boers at Kimberley and the retreat of their most famous general, Cronje.

It is also said that 6,000 burghers have been sent from Ladysmith to Bloemfontein.

The newspapers are reticent, but the Standard and Digges' News claims that Gen. Cronje's movement is beneficial, as it "increases the mobility of the burgher army, enabling it to conduct more effective operations on a carefully prepared plan."

There are persistent reports that the seat of the Free State Government is being removed to Wynburg.

FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH

Boers Report Four Days' Battle There—British Beaten Back on Tuesday Night.

BOER HEAD LAAGER, Ladysmith, Wednesday, Feb. 22.—There was heavy fighting all Monday and Tuesday and it all continues since early this morning. Our officers hope to divide the British from their position.

Last night a body of British troops tried to cross the river, but was beaten back with heavy loss. Our loss was slight. Our positions are being bombarded from Ladysmith, where the Klip River passes through the hills. Our Long Tom is replying with good effect.

MAYOR SCORES N'KINLEY

Van Wyk Says We Will Soon Be Under Domination of Great Britain.

Mayor Van Wyk expressed his opinion of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty while attending a meeting of the Sinking Fund to-day.

"If the National Government keeps on," said the Mayor, "and does not mind its own business, we are likely to get into international complications, and need an army of 500,000. The Government is now advocating a treaty that will make us subordinate to the Queens and the Empire of Great Britain."

"Every Man Is the Architect of His Fortune."

An architect designs, and his plan is executed by a builder. The great architect of Health is God's Sovereignty. I lay a firm foundation. I make the blood, the basis of life, pure and strong. Secure Home's as your health builder.

M'KINLEY, 'MURDERER.'

Anti-Imperialist Stephens Fiercely Denounces the President.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21.—The second day's session of the "Eastern Conference" of anti-imperialists was characterized by the adoption of a strong resolution, condemning the expansion policy of the Administration.

During the discussion President McKinley was severely criticized and held personally responsible for the "criminal aggression" of the country.

Several of the delegates objected to the use of President McKinley's name on the ground that it was unwise to insert personalities into a resolution of that nature.

The resolution when first presented placed the responsibility for the war in the Philippines with "the Republican party, under the lead of President McKinley," but on motion of Mr. McKeown of Massachusetts, the words "the present Administration" were substituted.

Answering the objections of those who favored striking out the name of Mr. McKinley, Frank Stephens, of this city, said:

"That murderer is the man who is chiefly to blame for the shame that rests upon this country, and his name should not be removed."

Senator Hoar declines for criticism. Several of the delegates declared that little assistance could be expected from him, owing to his staunch support of the President.

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An architect designs, and his plan is executed by a builder. The great architect of Health is God's Sovereignty. I lay a firm foundation. I make the blood, the basis of life, pure and strong. Secure Home's as your health builder.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

CASPERFELD CLEVELAND
144 BOWERY.
"Beverly Savings Bank Bldg."
North of Grand St. Station, West side of street.

IT PAYS to watch our advertisements closely, also to COMPARISON them with those of competitors.

For this week we have some unusually tempting bargains, a few of which are described below:

Two steel wire, perfect gems, 14 karats, a superb color, better setting, worth \$10.00, special.

Extra fine gem, perfectly cut, 14 karats, a superb color, better setting, worth \$10.00, special.

\$50.00. \$45.00.

Engagement Ring, pure white diamond, very brilliant, Tiffany setting, 14 karats, \$25.00.

Gentleman's watch, solid gold throughout, genuine Waltham or Elgin jewels, movement—\$18.00.

GENUINE P. S. BARTLETT.

In sterling silver, 3-oz. hunting-cases, carried by railroad men throughout the world, worth \$10.00.

\$20.00.....\$10.00

Solid 14 and 18 kt. Gold Seamless Wedding Rings our specialty. All shapes at very moderate prices. No extra charge for engraving.

Open Evening—Until 8 P. M. Saturday to P. M. Send for illustrated circular of special bargains. Mail Orders Receive Prompt Attention.

Friday's Work Roll!

513 Paid Help Wants in To-Day's World.

BUT

201 Paid Help Wants in the 19 Other New York Papers Combined.

AGENTS..... 14 GIRLS..... 10

BARTERS..... 1 GORDON FRIDERS..... 1

BARTENDERS..... 1 HOUSEWORK..... 1

BOYS..... 1 EMBROIDERERS..... 1

BUTCHERS..... 1 MILLINERS..... 1

CHAMBERMAIDS..... 1 NURSES..... 1

COOKS..... 1 SEWING..... 1

CARPENTERS..... 1 OPERATORS..... 1

COMPOSITORS..... 1 PAINTERS..... 1

DRESSMAKERS..... 1 POSTERS..... 1

DRUITS..... 1 SALESMEN..... 1